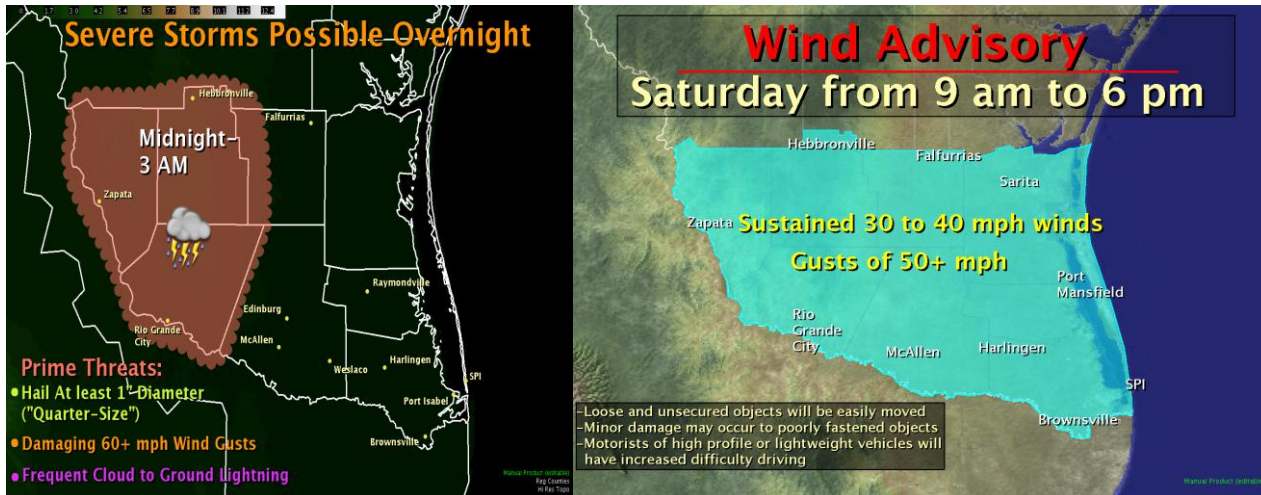


# Severe Weather Possible After Midnight Very Strong Winds to Follow Saturday



Click above for an animated timeline.

## Dangerous Thunderstorms Late Tonight

Low pressure will develop and begin intensifying over the Rio Grande Valley and King Ranch region overnight before scooting off toward Houston on Saturday. A vigorous upper level disturbance will lift increasingly unstable air into scattered thunderstorms, which could organize into a squall line around midnight or shortly thereafter across the Rio Grande Plains of South Texas and northern Mexico, then accelerate east across the Rio Grande Valley through sunrise on Saturday. Should storms develop, they would arrive in the most populous region of the Valley between 3 and 6 AM, passing quickly into the Gulf after sunrise on Saturday.

Should the line develop, severe weather would become likely. Potential threats include:

- Damaging 60 mph or higher wind gusts.
- Hailstones the size of quarters, and possibly up to the size of golfballs.
- Frequent cloud to ground lightning strikes.
- Brief but torrential downpours reducing visibility below one half mile and causing local poor drainage "nuisance" flooding
- Isolated small tornadoes.

## Very Windy Saturday

Any storms will be quickly followed by a rapid increase in northwest winds as the low pressure system intensifies further while accelerating northeast of the region on Saturday. Model data (below) indicate an increasing likelihood of 40 to 55 mph winds just above the earth's surface, which should mix down toward the ground in pulses from late morning through the afternoon on Saturday. These winds will also affect the Gulf waters during the afternoon, where frequent Gale force gusts are likely and some gusts may briefly edge toward storm force (48 knots). Sea waters offshore and bay waters along the west side of the barrier island will become rough for a time between late morning and mid afternoon.

## Preparedness and Staying Safe

The following are tips to consider this afternoon and evening to be ready for the hazardous weather ahead:

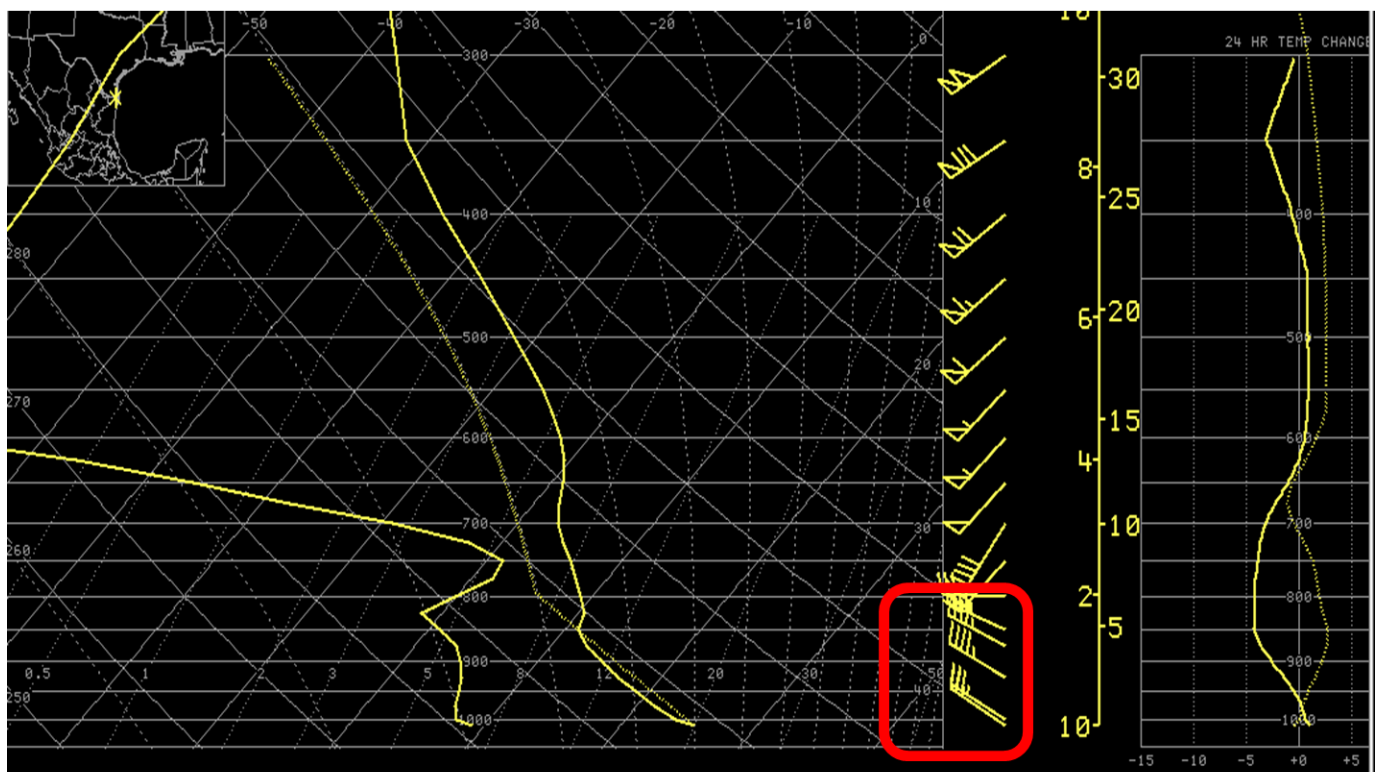
- Pick up any loose items in the yard, field, etc. which could become missiles in winds exceeding 60 mph.
- Fasten down other light to moderate weight objects, or move them indoors. These include portable basketball poles, trash cans, etc. Check for any loose shingles, siding, soffit, vents, etc. which could be easily torn off in 60 mph or higher winds.
- Bring pets indoors before midnight tonight.

- If you have a NOAA weather radio, check the batteries **now** and replace if needed. Before going to bed, put the receiver in alert mode to ensure any late night or early morning warning alarms are heard.
- If you use a smart device, such as a cell phone or tablet computer, for weather radio apps, be sure to have the app set to your location. Ensure that the device is on full volume mode, not in silent or vibrate. Most importantly, make sure the device is fully charged before going to bed this evening.
- If planning to drive Saturday, be sure to weigh down lightweight vehicles and keep both hands on the wheel. Elevated, exposed roads such as Highways 281, 83, and 77 in the Lower and Mid Valley will be most at risk

### **Stay Tuned...**

To NOAA Weather radio, this website (<http://weather.gov/rgv>), and our Facebook Page (<http://facebook.com/US.NationalWeatherService.Brownsville.gov>). Do you Tweet? If so, we'll try to follow late tonight and Saturday. #rgvwxreport.

## **Forecast Wind Speeds through the "Mixing" Layer, Noon February 18th**



**40-50 mph+**

Figure 1. Atmospheric profile forecast for 12 PM February 18th. A fully mixed atmosphere, shown by the diagonal yellow line on the right side of the middle graphic, allows winds to "mix" down to the surface more efficiently. Hold onto your hats!